

July 19, 1999

CALFED BAY DELTA PROGRAM
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Rick Breitenbach

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Mr. Breitenbach,

As a member of CalTrout I believe that better solutions are available than the current CALFED Phase 2 alternatives. These better alternatives include an increased reliance on groundwater storage instead of new dams or reservoirs, providing water for fisheries and watersheds without building new dams, increased water conservation actions for both agriculture and municipalities, and further water quality improvements for Bay-Delta waters.

CALFED should not consider additional surface dams and reservoir projects but instead should aggressively promote groundwater storage as an alternative to dams. Groundwater storage is less harmful to the environment and costs less than surface storage.

Furthermore, taxpayers should not be considered as a source of monies to pay for new dams. Additional public subsidies for dam building are not acceptable.


Like wise, plans for an "environmental water account" which would require more dams to pay for water for environmental purposes are not acceptable. CALFED needs to provide water for environmental purposes without doing further damage to ecosystems.

Rather water conservation for municipalities and agriculture should be emphasized by CALFED. To this end CALFED should rely on realistic rather than inflated projections for future water usage.

And finally, CALFED's plan for improving water quality falls short. A better plan is needed for eliminating toxics, pesticides and animal wastes from waterways, managing salinity levels in the Bay-Delta, protecting water resources in the Sierra Nevada and promoting new drinking water treatment technologies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Schramm

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